

# EL CLARIN

ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey  
Update

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1  
WINTER/SPRING EDITION

## ASPIRA TO HOST FIRST ANNUAL LATINO EDUCATION CONFERENCE

### Event to Explore Theme of Latinos & The School Reform Movement

Newark, NJ- William Colón, Executive Director of ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey, announced today that ASPIRA will be the host of the first ever Latino Education Conference in New Jersey. The conference-whose theme is "Where are the Latino Voices in School Reform?"—will be held at Harrah's Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City on April 5-6, 1999.

"We hope to provide a truly meaningful conference with provocative speakers. As Latinos, we need to explore where we stand relative to school reform. We constantly hear the arguments regarding school finance and budgets, however, we are seldom given the opportunity to express our opinions and our ideas concerning these issues. In the Abbott v. Burke debate, for example, no one asked us where we stood even though that case was all about the dollars that buy education for Latino and other poor children in New Jersey", explained Mr. Colón.

The two day conference will also present workshops on successful models, affirmative action in education and bilingual education. Additionally, the conference will address the benefits and controversies associated with whole school reform, parental empowerment, parental participation in school management teams, vouchers and the school choice movement. The conference is being co-sponsored by the National ASPIRA Association, the Education Law Center, the Paterson Education, the Hispanic Directors Association, the New Jersey Association of Parent Coordinators, the Hispanic Association for Higher Education and Medgar Evers College.

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey is the oldest Latino community organization in New Jersey established more than 30 years ago. It is also the only statewide organization with centers in Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, Trenton, and Camden. ASPIRA

originated the first school-based dropout prevention programs and has a national reputation for excellence in their educational support efforts, especially in relation to college-bound Latinos.

Anyone interested in attending the Latino Education Conference may obtain a registration packet by calling Ms. Carmen Nazario at (973) 484-7554 or by faxing the information request to her attention at (973) 484-0184.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EXPANSION GRANT  
300 CLUB'S FIRST MEMBER  
HISPANIC COLLEGE FAIRS  
PRE-COLLEGE  
PARENT CENTER  
CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION FORM

### ASPIRA OPENS ART GALLERY WITH SUPERB EVENT

Over 200 persons were present on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Opening of the ASPIRA Art Gallery and Community Center located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 390 Broad Street in Newark.

The festivities commenced with dinner and cocktails and a program recognizing Ms. Noemi Velázquez, contributions to the expansion and well-being of ASPIRA. Ms. Velázquez, former Board of Directors' member and Chairperson, received a plaque, a handsome painting by the renowned artist Alicia Maury, and a special flower bouquet designed for the occasion by



Anibal Ramos, Jr., ASPIRA Board Chair, presents plaque to Noemi Velázquez, honoree, at Art Gallery grand opening

ASPIRA staff members. Furthermore, the Board of Directors announced a yearly \$2,000 scholarship in Ms. Velázquez name to a college-bound Latina student.

The gallery opened with works by Soraida Martínez, Dr. Sandra Acker, Rigoberto Ramirez and Alicia Maury. Alicia is an extraordinary talented artist who also works at ASPIRA in Paterson as a counselor.

Entertainment at the event was provided by *Trio Cristal*.

The art gallery is opened by appointment between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

This newsletter is possible by a donation from First Union Bank

FIRST  
UNION

## ASPIRA INC. OF NEW JERSEY ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF EXPANSION GRANT

Newark, NJ - First National Regional Foundation, informed ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey that a grant in the amount of \$375,000 over two years was approved by the board of Trustees of that institution of January 26<sup>th</sup>.

"We are elated and truly grateful to the foundation for approving this grant", expressed Anibal Ramos, Jr. Chairman of the ASPIRA Board of Directors. "This is a genuine expression of confidence and faith in the work ASPIRA has done in New Jersey during the past 30 years", added Mr. Ramos.

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey is the oldest Latino community-based organization in New Jersey and the only one with statewide services. The organization currently operates centers in Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Camden and Trenton. It serves over 2,000 children and 1,000 parents at 29 public schools. ASPIRA runs leadership development and dropout prevention programs, pre-college counseling services, math and science enrichment and parental training programs as well as a full gamut of after-school activities.

William Colón, Executive Director, explained that the grant would be used to leverage funds to expand into five more urban centers in New Jersey. "These funds will allow us to expand in Vineland and Atlantic City in the southern part of the state, Perth Amboy and New Brunswick in the central region and Passaic in the north. We expect to reach an additional 1,000 children and 500 parents per year." ASPIRA officials expect to start the expansion during the summer months and open the new centers during the period August to October of this year.

For further information, please call:  
William Colón, (973) 484-7554

### MILLS CORPORATION FIRST TO JOIN 300 CLUB THIS YEAR

The first member to join the 300 Club this year is the Mills Corporation of Arlington, Virginia. This firm made a donation of \$3,300 to support the educational mission of ASPIRA.

In addition to the Mills Corporation, Goya Foods, Bell Atlantic and PSF&G have also joined the Club.

The 300 Club was created to formalize the on-going generous corporate support for ASPIRA in New Jersey. Its aim is to reach \$1 million dollars in contributions from the private sector.

Club members will receive special recognition and will participate in activities designed for the members.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| March 11, 1999  | Luncheon                    |
| April 5-6, 1999 | Latino Education Conference |
| July 1999       | Math & Science Academy      |

## HISPANIC COLLEGE FAIRS A SUCCESS

December was a busy month for ASPIRA counselors as they had to do extra work to smooth the way for the first ASPIRA-sponsored college fairs in New Jersey.

The college fairs were conducted December 4<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1998 at Burlington County College for the southern and central areas of the state and at the Sheraton Hotel in Newark for High School seniors in the northern portion of the state.

The fair at Burlington County College attracted 55 colleges and universities and over 2,000 students. The fair at the Sheraton had 70 colleges and 2,500 students in attendance.

The Hispanic College fairs are an ASPIRA initiative, which raises funds for the organization's various activities and scholarships. ASPIRA's partner in this venture is the National College Hispanic Fairs, Inc., a private organization which has more than 20 years of experience in managing and operating college fairs.

"We are very pleased with the results of this first venture in this area", commented William Colón, Executive Director. "We are now planning the next fairs in the spring (April) for juniors and the fall fairs (early December) for seniors", added Mr. Colón.

### ASPIRA LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FOR PRE-COLLEGE PARENT CENTER

ASPIRA is set to open a unique service for low-income, working parents who are in need of counseling and support in assisting their children in applying for college, applying for scholarships and obtaining financial aid. At this moment, ASPIRA is looking for financial supporters for this much-needed initiative.

The Pre-College Parent Resource Center, located on the second floor at 390 Broad Street in Newark, will offer parents off hour services during the evening and Saturdays. These services will include:

- A resource library containing hard copies of college catalogs. This library will expand to include all colleges and universities in the U.S. and some universities abroad.
- CD ROM's and other resource information about the PSAT and SAT.
- Access to PCs networked with Internet capabilities.
- Electronic access to all colleges web sites and E-mail addresses.
- Electronic access to available national and special interest scholarship programs and their applications formats.
- Electronic access to ETS material and U.S. Department of Education web site and Financial Assistance Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.
- On-site, one-on-one, assistance in filling out and preparing scholarship applications, financial aid packages, loan applications and college enrollment forms.

The Pre-College Parent Resource Center is set to open in early March.

**FIRST ANNUAL LATINO EDUCATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM  
WHERE ARE THE LATINO VOICES IN SCHOOL REFORM?**

**April 5-6, 1999 Harrah's Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an Aspirante/Alumni? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration fees include Conference Program, materials, breakfasts, one lunch and Reception.  
You must make your hotel reservations directly with Harrah's Hotel by calling 1 (800) 242-7724  
(#1)*

Student Rate	Pre-Registration	On Site/After 3/22/99	Amount
\$175.00	\$380.00	\$425.00	\$ _____

Multiple Registrations: The second registrant from the same institution shall receive a 10 percent discount. Subsequent registrants from the same institution will receive a 5 percent discount each.

**Registration Instructions and Deadline:**

Registration materials must be postmarked on or before 3/22/99. After this date, "On-site" registration fees apply. Full payment or a Purchase Order Form must accompany this form. No registration will be accepted without payment or purchase order. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ASPIRA, MAIL CHECK AND THIS REGISTRATION FORM TOGETHER TO:

**1999 ANNUAL CONFERENCE,  
ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY,  
390 BROAD STREET, 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR  
NEWARK, NJ 07104**

\_\_\_\_\_ Please invoice me, a purchase order is attached. Federal Tax-Exempt I.D. # 22-1859916

\_\_\_\_\_ A check is enclosed.

**Sorry. No credit cards accepted for registration.**

(You may fill out the form and fax to: (973) 484-0184)

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization providing counseling and leadership development programs to Latino and other minority youth. Our programs include personal and educational counseling, dropout prevention, leadership development and post-secondary placement.

EL CLARIN is an ASPIRA publication designed to inform the community of our programs and other issues of importance. For more information on ASPIRA or to receive EL CLARIN you can write or call our executive office:

*Executive office*  
390 Broad Street 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07104  
(973) 484-7554

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY  
Board of Directors

Anibal Ramos, Jr.  
*Chairperson*

William Colón  
*Executive Director*

Carlos J. Alma

Gene Calderón

Yessenia Correa

Henry Cruz-Pumarejo

Mercedes Del Valle Rana, Ed. D.

Pablo Muñoz

Gilbert Rivera

Rolando Velázquez

Carlos Valentin

## FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES



### *Aspirantes...Paterson...1978. Recognize anyone?*

#### View from the Chair

By Anibal Ramos, Jr.

ASPIRA is reaching higher grounds than ever before as it celebrates its thirtieth anniversary. With the addition of a number of programs including the Family Friendly After School Centers, expansion of the APEX Program and the Math and Science Academy, and the continued success of both the Leadership Development and AmeriCorps Programs, ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey is providing thousands of students and parents with a vast array of opportunities. These opportunities include access to post-secondary education, learning the tools to become active and effective participants in the educational experiences of children, and the development of true leadership skills in our target communities. As a result of these efforts, the ASPIRA legacy is alive and well in New Jersey!

What will the new year bring? ASPIRA is committed to the continued success of its students. Through an aggressive public relations campaign, ASPIRA will continue to be at the forefront of education reform in the State of New Jersey. The first annual ASPIRA conference entitled "Where are the Latino Voices in Educational Reform?" will serve as a valuable starting point for this renewed public image.

As a result of the efforts of the Executive Director, staff, and Board of Trustees, ASPIRA is as strong as ever. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders and sponsors for their uncommitted support. I also encourage other individuals to become a part of our winning team!

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey  
390 Broad Street 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07104

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Newark, NJ  
Permit No. 372

RECEIVED  
MAR 29 1999  
SEVERINO LUISA, J.S.C.